



# Maricopa County

## News Release

### Environmental Services Department

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## County Gives Approval for Water Company to Begin Serving Customers

PHOENIX (January 28, 2003) – Maricopa County Environmental Services Director, Al Brown has signed the order allowing Rose Valley Water Company to begin serving water to its customers.

Rose Valley Water was taken offline November 3, 2002 in response to the possibility that the organism, *Naegleria fowleri* was in its system. At that time, residents were switched over to City of Peoria water.

Before Rose Valley was given permission to go back online, the County required disinfection of its tanks and installation of a mechanical chlorination system. The company also voluntarily entered into a compliance agreement with the County. Rose Valley will now coordinate with the City of Peoria to get its customers back online with its water system.

"Rose Valley has worked closely with the County to insure that it will be delivering a safe product to its customers," said Al Brown, Director of Maricopa County Environmental Services Department. "We will continue to work with Rose Valley to make sure all of our requirements are being met."

Because this was the first case ever of the *Naegleria fowleri* organism found in a groundwater drinking water system and so little research has been done on this organism, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is cooperating with a number of federal and state institutions to initiate research projects to better understand and control *Naegleria fowleri* in drinking water systems. The proposed projects include a study of possible natural occurrence of the *Naegleria fowleri* in Arizona's water systems; development of effective tests for its presence in water systems; and identification of effective treatments in addition to chlorination.

"We know that chlorination kills this organism, which is why I want to stress how important it is for all residents to properly chlorinate pools, spas and Jacuzzis," said Brown. "And any resident who experiences changes in their water systems, such as pressure drops that result in odor or cloudiness, should contact our office immediately."

Residents may call Maricopa County's Environmental Services Complaint Line at 602-506-6616 or log on to [www.maricopa.gov/envsvc](http://www.maricopa.gov/envsvc) to voice any environmental complaints or concerns.

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